



LEADERSHIP,
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2018 Record of Proceedings

MANITOBA
School Boards
ASSOCIATION

54th Annual Convention
March 15 - 16, 2018
Delta Winnipeg
350 St. Mary Ave.

www.mbschoolboards.ca



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Manitoba School Boards Association
54th Annual Convention
March 15 & 16, 2018

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018

8:45 a.m. **Call to Order**

9:00 a.m. **Final Call for Nominations**

No further nominations received.

- **Sandy Nemeth** (Louis Riel S.D.) was acclaimed as Vice-President (6000 students or more)
- **Kelli Riehl** (Swan Valley S.D.) was acclaimed as Director Region 1
- **Lena Kublick** (Lord Selkirk S.D.) was acclaimed as Director Region 3

Elections to be held for Director Region 5.

9:10 a.m. **Keynote Address:** Welcome to the Great Conversation: Exercising your power to build support for Manitoba's schools one community at a time—**Jamie Vollmer**

10:20 a.m. **Concurrent Workshops A**

- Twitter for Trustees
- Schools Cannot Do This Alone: Student success in an age of rising expectations
- Leadership and Advocacy for Student Well-Being
- The Difficult Consequences of Not Being Actively Culturally Diverse and Inclusive
- Promise Years: Leaders Working Together as Advocates for Rural Children

11:30 a.m. **Concurrent Workshops B**

- Leading in the Midst of Challenges
- MERLIN
- From data to sustainable interventions
- A trustee's story – Who we are and What we do

12:30 p.m. **Lunch and Presentation of Student Citizenship Awards:**
Individual

- Region 1—**Emily Lints**, Park West S.D.
- Region 2—**Jacqueline Pankiw**, Red River Valley S.D.
- Region 3—**Danèle Déquier**, Division scolaire franco-manitobaine

- Region 4—**Mikylo Odut**, Flin Flon S.D. (received by **Leslie Fernandes**, Vice-Chair, Flin Flon S.D.)
- Region 5—**Kosi Hasani**, River East Transcona S.D.
- Region 6—**Laia Shpeller**, Winnipeg S.D.

Group

- **Nusaybah and Amina Mohamed**, Louis Riel S.D.

George Harbottle Memorial Award

- **Danèle Déquier**, Division scolaire franco-manitobaine

2:10 p.m.

Concurrent Workshops C

- Refugee Realities – Working together to support newcomer students and their families
- Instructional Walkthroughs for the purpose of school improvement
- Leadership, Service and Advocacy: National and International Perspectives
- Building your Army of Advocates
- CPEF in a Métis Community

3:30 p.m.

Student Debate: What should guide your decision-making—**Jordan Burg**, Moderator

Debate Teams:

- **Sparsh Agrawal**, Acadia Junior High, Pembina Trails S.D.
- **Abdul Gambo**, Acadia Junior High, Pembina Trails S.D.
- **Carla King**—Coach, Acadia Junior High, Pembina Trails S.D.
- **Madeline Meilun**, Morden Collegiate, Western S.D.
- **Vanessa Wiebe**, Morden Collegiate, Western S.D.
- **Michael Macaraeg**—Coach, Morden Collegiate, Western S.D.

4:30 p.m.

Board Chairs meeting with **Ian Wishart**, Minister of Education

8:00 p.m.

Reception (jointly hosted with MASS and MASBO); entertainment by **Helen White**.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018

Annual General Meeting

- 8:45 a.m. **Call to Order**
- 9:15 a.m. President's Report—**Ken Cameron**
- 9:15 a.m. **Regional Meetings/Elections**
- **Region 5** candidates **Kathleen McMillan** (Pembina Trails S.D.) and **Jerry Sodomlak** (River East Transcona S.D.) addressed delegates from their region. Question and answer session; ballot vote followed. **Jerry Sodomlak** (River East Transcona S.D.) was declared elected.
- Delegates were invited to use this opportunity to discuss local issues in regions where no elections were required.
- 10:30 a.m. CSBA Report—**Floyd Martens**, President
- 10:35 a.m. Vice-president (6000 students or more) **Sandy Nemeth**, Louis Riel S.D., gave her acceptance speech.
- 10:45 a.m. **Resolutions Debate** begins—**Garry Draper**, Chair; **Vera Chernecki**, Parliamentarian
- 12:00 noon 2018-19 Provincial Executive Meeting
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch and presentation of Premier Award for School Board Innovation:**
- **Virtual Reality Innovation Project**, Flin Flon S.D.
- Certificate of Merit to:
- The Writing Project, Louis Riel S.D.
 - Nature Studies Program, Park West S.D.
 - Blended Delivery Program, Prairie Spirit S.D.
 - The BEST Program, Seven Oaks S.D.
 - Careers that Fight Climate Change Network, Winnipeg S.D.
- 2:00 p.m. Executive Director's Address—**Josh Watt**
- 2:30 p.m. Resolutions debate resumes until complete

6:30 p.m. **President's Banquet**

Presentation of awards and recognition to:

Presidents' Council

Alexander Mickelthwate—Music Director, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra

Long Service Trustees Recognition

Award recipient with 16 years of service:

- **Cheryl Zelenitsky**, Evergreen S.D.

Award recipient with 20 years of service:

- **Brian Olynik**, River East Transcona S.D.

Retiring Provincial Executive members:

- **Della Perih**, Mountain View S.D.
- **Vaughn Wadelius**, Kelsey S.D.

8:00 p.m. Entertainment by **Sierra Noble**.

**2018 STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION ADDRESS
BY PRESIDENT KEN CAMERON
MSBA ANNUAL CONVENTION, MARCH 16, 2018**

Good morning everyone. It is a pleasure to deliver this year's state of the association address.

With the coming school board elections this Fall, I wanted to use this year's address to take stock of where we have come from, where we are at, and where we are headed.

Through our conventions, we come together to discuss what it means to be a leader in providing for our students, staff and communities. We come together to reflect on the democratic foundations of school board governance. We answer the question of why local autonomy in public education remains relevant: yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Through our keynotes, we relive the history of what trustees have achieved. And we address the topic of good governance: what makes good boards great and how boards can perfect their mandate. To promote the cause of public education for all.

Since the last time we met, all around this country, school boards have continued to face some of the greatest challenges to their role as champions of community voice. In January, Nova Scotia's Legislature moved forward to dissolve all school boards in that province, leaving only the francophone community's school board untouched.

The immediate hypocrisy of this decision is evident for all who have an understanding of why local autonomy matters. If control of local education remains good for one community, it ought to remain the right of every group in this country. Their right to have a say, in how matters affecting local education are decided.

Nova Scotia's experience shows that school boards everywhere must remain vigilant. We must protect against any move that would suffocate community control of local schools.

In Quebec, school boards had to again defend their rights. Their right to exist as elected entities rather than as appointed puppets of a central government.

Whether French and English, they fought for their right to promote the unique character that makes that province so distinct. I am glad to report that our colleagues in that province are certainly up to the task. The task of ensuring that school boards remain the object of local control. But their fight continues nonetheless.

Meanwhile, the great laboratory to the west provides insight to us here in Manitoba, about the many experiments in school governance that may be repeated within our own borders. Some of these we already know too well coming out of this year's funding of schools announcement. Others may well emerge from the as-of-yet undefined mists of an upcoming education review.

Across all of these developments, one thing is clear. Local democracy is subject to challenge and vulnerable to attack at any time and in any province. And that is one fight that we can't win alone.

As your association, we can speak your voice to government. We can try to educate other levels of government about the fundamental importance of your role and mandate. But we cannot do this alone.

The time is now for all of us to work together, to ensure that the future remains just as bright as it always has been for school boards in Manitoba. This is true whether it comes to our very survival as school boards, or in terms of the futures we strive to create for our students and our communities.

Against such a dire backdrop, our association continues to work with you our members, to make progress on those issues that matter to schools and communities across our great province.

First off, let's talk about the Copyright Act Review that is taking place by the Federal Government.

Last May, we joined forces with school boards and Ministers of Education countrywide, to ensure that we continue to benefit from the fair dealings provisions of the Copyright Act. We were proud to see many of you answer the call to send letters to Federal and Provincial officials. Your advocacy is making a difference.

It will make certain that we continue to save taxpayers millions of dollars by providing access for our teachers and students, while balancing the rights of big publishing companies.

Just this past January, MSBA was also key to providing our colleagues at the Canadian School Boards Association, with an important platform to address this issue.

At a special Manitoba Chambers of Commerce luncheon sponsored by MSBA, CSBA President Floyd Martens had an opportunity to consult with Minister Navdeep Bains, Federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. Floyd closed off the luncheon by addressing a who's who of over 300 influential business people, making them aware of the importance of protecting fair dealing for the benefit of all Canadians.

Next, I would like to turn to our sacred work in promoting the cause of Aboriginal and Indigenous Education.

In case you missed our regional meetings, let me recap one of the most significant actions that occurred over the past year.

In July, MSBA attended the World Indigenous People's Conference on Education in Toronto. Based on conversations there, we eventually learned of the existence of some rare cassette recordings of Red River Bungi. Now extinct, this language was spoken by the descendants of the Cree and Ojibway peoples and Selkirk Settlers.

Being over 50 years old, the tapes were in danger of being destroyed. MSBA arranged for these recordings to be digitized, and copies have been made for a range of cultural and education organizations.

It is not every day that an Association like ours, dedicated to the cause of education, has the opportunity to assist in protecting a language like Red River Bungi.

In this respect, we are grateful to Scottish Scholar Alisdair MacMhaoirn for bringing the matter to our attention. But we are extremely thankful to Lord Selkirk School Division Elder Ruth Christie, for her diligent trusteeship of the original cassette recordings over these many years.

Through our efforts, we hope that future generations of Manitobans get to study and hear this now lost language that once graced the shores of Lake Winnipeg.

In terms of the work of our Aboriginal and Indigenous Education Action Plan, I would also be remiss if I did not acknowledge the work of our Executive Director for his chairpersonship of the CSBA First Nations, Metis and Inuit Education Committee.

With coordinated efforts across CSBA members, all of the FNMI items that CSBA set out to achieve under its last strategic plan were fulfilled at least a year ago. As a result, the FNMI committee has continued to broaden its focus on more items for nationwide advocacy. Much accomplished, much more to come!

The CSBA FNMI Committee has recently produced a progress chart for the CBC. The chart shows our responses to each of the calls to action issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. This is certain to be a valuable resource that all school boards can use, for speaking about how we are responding to this important blueprint. Speaking of which...

I am happy to report that the Collaborative Blueprint that MSBA signed in December 2016 has now led to the creation of a comprehensive implementation plan.

Together with our partners in the private education, post-secondary education and Indigenous education sectors, we look forward to the launch of this implementation plan later this Spring.

If she is here right now, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Blueprint Chair Sharon Parenteau, for getting such a diverse group to agree on a mutually acceptable way forward. Please join me in a round of applause for Sharon!

Lastly, I am very pleased to report that MSBA has recently welcomed its very first associate member from among the First Nations Education Authorities in Manitoba. At our meeting just this past Wednesday, Executive approved the final draft of a formal agreement with the Nee-see-chah-why-a-sick First Nation, also known as Nelson House. These are certainly exciting times for our association. We are very proud that you, our members, paved the way for this to happen, through the creation of an associate membership category back in 2011.

Next off, let's talk about cannabis!

In December, MSBA attended the first reading of The Safe and Responsible Cannabis Retail Act. While the Province has been criticized for its decision to set the legal age for purchase and consumption at 19 years, the proposed higher age will certainly help keep cannabis out of our kids' hands through to graduation. This is what really counts.

MSBA has also been invited to attend first reading of the Non-Smoker's Health Protection and Impaired Driving Offences Act, just next week. This Bill will seek to apply the same standards to cannabis as are currently applied to second-hand tobacco and drunk driving.

Your association is very pleased to be recognized by the Government of Manitoba as a key partner for consultation on this issue. This is because of your interest in promoting community safety and also because of our leadership on the TADD program.

The protection of our kids has not been without challenges, that much is true. In December, we chastised the good folks at municipal relations for the retail planning guidelines that they issued to municipalities.

These proposed to set retail buffer zones of only two city blocks away from schools, daycares and recreational facilities. We were happy to engage the Manitoba Child Care Association, who echoed our call. Municipal relations felt that it was not reasonable to have two retailers situated within six city blocks of one another. But somehow, they felt that it would be reasonable to have a retailer open its doors within eyesight of places where our kids grow, learn and play.

In view of this unexpected development, your association has called upon the Province to assume responsibility for setting buffer zones of 1000 metres or more when licensing retailers of cannabis, as remains within their power to do.

We look forward to participating in the upcoming legislative committee hearings, in order to share these concerns and support the good measures that are being proposed for protection of our students and communities.

There is one other initiative that I am particularly happy to share with you. MSBA and MAPC plan to partner this summer to produce a "Talking To Your Kids About Cannabis" fact sheet.

This fact sheet can be distributed to parents during back to school week this coming September. This will be very important as a resource, given that legalization will have occurred during the summer break period.

Lastly, on the advocacy front, it came as a great surprise to us, to learn that Manitoba Hydro was petitioning the Public Utilities Board for a double digit increase to your hydro bill in the foreseeable future.

We really do have to thank all boards for sharing your annual expenditures on Hydro. MSBA has filed a written submission to highlight that, whatever cost is imposed on school boards by Manitoba Hydro, these will either be passed along to the ratepayer or will result in taking dollars away from our classrooms. We trust that our voice has been heard in respect of this file.

This past year has seen MSBA involvement in a range of different events. I want to share a few highlights with you.

In April, we were pleased to join with River East-Transcona, as well as Brandon, Sunrise and Pembina Trails school boards, to signal our appreciation for the Government's ongoing commitment to the Respect in Schools program. RiS re-launched under a much more user friendly platform, making it easier for all divisional employees to access the program. If you have not considered RiS or promoting RiS for your division, I would strongly encourage you to do so.

The goal of the program, as I have shared on many other occasions, is designed to help staff recognize the signs of abuse, neglect and bullying in children's lives.

Designed by Sheldon Kennedy and Wayne McNeil of Respect Group, many of you have heard their passion for ensuring that schools remain respectful places, for kids to be kids.

The Province is providing free access to the program for all staff in Manitoba for the next two years. These days, it is next to impossible to get something of such value at absolutely no charge. I really do encourage you to explore the program.

Later that same month, I was pleased to join with many of my fellow directors on the Provincial Executive as we attended the signature MASS and MTS Conference on Educating for Action.

I want to thank our partner organizations for their incredible feat in pulling off such a conference. I feel that the outcomes from that gathering will continue to have ripple effects for some time to come. Congratulations to MASS and MTS for such an incredible success. MSBA was proud to have been part of the planning committee for this important conference.

The month of May began with our Executive's annual strategic planning retreat. I do thank my colleagues on Provincial Executive, as well as the staff, for really hitting one out of the park this last year. A summary of the retreat, and its outcomes, was shared with you our members last year.

I am happy to report that about 90 percent of the work items we identified are already complete. Remarkable, because there were many more strategic priorities set than in any previous year! Our staff really do deserve a round of applause for what they managed to pull off over the past year.

The month of June brought the first out of three farewells during this past year, in terms of the MSBA office. As reported to you during our last regional meetings, after nearly twenty years of service, Dr. Mary Hall wound down her work as Director of Safe Schools Manitoba.

Then in October, we bid a heartfelt farewell to Pat Denovan, a long-time labour relations consultant. Pat took her well-deserved retirement, following many years of service to our association.

And so this brings us to our third and final farewell. We learned of this one at the beginning of the New Year. Following his forty years of service: that is correct folks, I said forty- I am very saddened to extend a final farewell to Mr. Craig Wallis.

When Craig began his time at MSBA in 1977, the world was a much different place. When he applied to come to work at what was then MAST, Craig's resume was handwritten according to the standards of the time.

As he retires, it is from a workplace driven by technology, where the world is beginning to think about robots and mechanization. But Craig has always retained a careful balance between the old and new worlds. We could not help but to share that his notice of retirement was submitted in the exact same handwritten penmanship!

Craig has been integral to the work of the Labour Relations Unit, as well as the Pension Trust Committee. I cannot even try to sum up what a forty year career means for our association. Craig, on

behalf of all trustees past and present, I want to acknowledge your four decades of service to our shared cause.

I would ask that all delegates who are here today join with me in recognizing the dedication that Craig has contributed to our association.

Even as the association has said good-bye to three MSBA icons over the past year, so too, we have welcomed one new member to the team. Alison Bourrier is the newest member of the Labour Relations Team and I hope that you have had a chance to meet her at this convention.

I am happy to hear that by all reports, she has become a great colleague for those in the MSBA office, even as her support to the Labour Relations Unit has demonstrated great skill and capability. A warm welcome aboard Alison!

Amidst these important changes, our outreach as an association has not suffered. Your table officers met this past year with no less than 13 members of the Progressive Conservative Caucus. Your Executive also met as a whole with Minister Wishart.

The conversation with caucus, as well as with Minister Wishart, was very engaging and informative. We communicated the importance of maintaining local autonomy and governance through school boards. We also provided good information on the risks and outcomes of amalgamation. And we reinforced the willingness of all boards to work in partnership with the Government, on a range of shared interests.

In turn, MSBA received a special request from Reg Helwer, MLA for Brandon, to move forward with the development of curriculum concerning organ and tissue donation. In this respect, once again, MAPC has agreed to partner with MSBA.

This time, to collaborate on a "Talking to your Kids About Tissue and Organ Donation" fact sheet. Parents will be able to use this fact sheet to raise these important topics with their children, according to their own personal values and beliefs. We look forward to sharing this with you, our members, in the near future.

Josh and I also met with Wab Kinew and Matthew Wiebe for an introductory meet and greet back in November. As a former Opposition Critic for Education, it was evident that Wab required very little information on our association's role or responsibilities.

While our annual liaison meeting with the Manitoba Liberal Party has not yet taken place, region 5/6ers can attest that Dr. Gerrard did spend some of the morning with us, during last fall's regional meeting. His remarks were greatly appreciated.

We look forward to meeting with new Liberal leader Dougald Lamont in the near future, to discuss continuity and change in his Party's platforms concerning public education.

In November, MSBA helped to coordinate initial efforts to request clarification from Premier Pallister concerning the future of the BEF, and its Assistant Deputy Minister position. At that time, it was our understanding that the BEF was substantially restructured. Part of this meant there was no longer an ADM position to provide decision-making input for matters concerning French education.

Joined in this advocacy by MASS, MTS, MAPC and MASBO, alongside of the DSFM and several other partners, our intention was to receive a clear commitment from the Province regarding the future of French education.

To this end, we requested confirmation of the Government's ongoing respect for its constitutional obligations towards the DSFM and other partners in the Franco-Manitoban community. We also sought a response concerning French language supports within the government, for an area of education increasingly in demand.

At last update, several partners under the new Coalition for French Education have now obtained a response from the Province, in terms of the establishment of a working group to revisit the decisions that were made. While we are not members of this Coalition, MSBA will continue to monitor this situation diligently. We have also signalled our willingness to lend additional support, when and if needed.

Working with our partners in education is critical. And pursuing partnership with broader members of the community, through the Council on Local Education Funding, has also been important. As we reported to you during regionals, this Council took a deeper look at the question of school taxation, as well as innovation on the revenue and expenditure side of school operations.

I cannot but help to remind everyone, that the single recommendation coming out of this important work was to call upon the Government to form a tax commission. To review and study the entire question of taxation in our province, not just educational levies. I think this speaks volumes in and of itself.

We remain very grateful for the investment of time and effort made by Council members. They not only identified issues and challenges in local education funding, but also studied many viable solutions and innovations.

With that final highlight, I arrive at the crossroads of this year's address. Highlighting our advocacy and events are important. But in closing, I want to take a moment to share some thoughts, ideas and perspectives with you concerning the future.

February 8th marked a clear turning point for all school boards in our province. Last year, many of you faced a minus two. But then this year was something entirely different. Something that we have not experienced for many years.

Limitations on school board authority to generate revenues to meet the needs of our classrooms. Reductions on divisional administration. A move towards provincial bargaining. The issuance of a Crown mandate for labour negotiations.

The lowest provincial funding increase in nearly two decades. Removal of subsidies to cover the payroll tax. And lastly, the removal of \$60 million in provincial funding from the smallest boards' budgets, over the next six years.

Each of these comes with its own set of considerations. I need not explain the internal mechanics of what each represents, especially for boards in rural and northern Manitoba. You have all completed the setting of your budgets by now, so you well understand what each of these means for your bottom line.

And yet, as your President, I remain grateful. Yes, I said grateful.

Is it possible that more may be coming the way of school boards? Based on the board chairs' meeting with Minister Wishart yesterday, there will certainly be more challenges ahead.

But I am grateful nonetheless, because I know that you have the capacity and the ability, within you as boards, to manage each of these challenges.

I am grateful because, over the past two years, you have shown our communities, you have shown the people of this province, and you shown Broadway, what it means to exercise good governance. What it means to exercise local autonomy and control of education.

I am grateful because every single one of you does this job out of the goodness of your hearts. Out of your sense of commitment to your community. When trustee stipends are averaged out on a daily basis, you cannot even buy a Big Mac meal each day, for the responsibilities you shoulder as trustees.

I am also grateful because of the many boards who, over the past several weeks, have had to make tough choices from within, while avoiding cuts to the frontline. You, each one of you, has continued to demonstrate why school boards matter to this province. Why it counts to have a level of governance in between Broadway and Beausejour, Baldur and Benito. Between the Government and Gimli, Gretna and Gladstone.

It may be difficult to explain the magic number 38 to the average person. In terms of how many school boards are enough, can anyone provide an answer? Well, perhaps the best response is to look at just what has been achieved over these past two years, by each of our 38 public school boards.

Surely this provides the best defence, in terms of how you as boards have mitigated the impacts of central funding cuts upon our local communities. How you as boards have prioritized the needs of our local communities. In such manner that what really counts, support for our children's future, remains.

Amalgamation, amalgamation, amalgamation. Like a steam engine on the tracks, it is the one word that continues to chug along.

Well, last year I responded to that word. I reminded each of you that bigger is not necessarily better, and that larger does not mean economies of scale in the world of school boards.

I highlighted the fact that public education- the future of our young people- deserves a democratically elected board.

One that will ensure that community character is properly reflected in the education that they receive. And I will thus say yet again that sewers and garbage collection and curbside repair, are without this same requirement.

One city council for Winnipeg? Well yes, given the nature of the services delivered, that is a dream come true. One school board for Winnipeg? That is a nightmare in waiting.

It seems futile to even have to repeat these things for yet another year, for I know that I am preaching to the choir here today. The truth is that we as school boards have lived through this experience once already under the last Government. The anticipated windfalls in savings were as thin as the prairie air in winter.

If a new Government wants to look forward to tomorrow, then really, using the policy decisions and options of yesteryear is possibly, might I suggest, the worst place to look for new ideas.

If it were genuinely the case that amalgamation could save dollars or bring about the restoration of fiscal balance in this province, I would say, let's go for it. But it does not. And we know this because we lived through it once before, and not so long ago.

We do not even have to look at the lessons from other provinces to inform the way forward here. All we have to do to is to look at yesterday in Manitoba to know that the only thing amalgamation does, is to eliminate democracy. The only thing that it is good for, is to muzzle and strip local communities of their voice.

So what number is the right number? Is 38 the right number?

What I will say is this, it has always been the official position of this association that it should be every community's right to decide whether or not to amalgamate. I feel that this position needs no defence.

It is a position that is deeply rooted in democracy. It is a position that ought to be reflected in any future decision that is made, concerning boards in this province.

Anything can be done under the name of efficiency. But efficiency is about quantities, not qualities. For any Government that holds democratic values at its core, and that believes that local voice matters, amalgamation is not an option.

How about reductions to the admin cost cap? How many trustees have now disappeared as of the next election? How many have disappeared, simply because 15 per cent of roughly one and a half cents on every dollar spent under the provincial education budget, was worth more to this Government in savings, than the 15 full days each month that the average trustee spends defending their communities' rights and voice.

I am very grateful to every single board affected. I am grateful that you prioritized yourselves over any cuts to programs and services for the sake of our children. But slaying the big bad deficit dragon did not have to be an either/or choice folks.

As the old saying goes, an attack on democracy in any form, is an assault on democracy in every form. At the end of the day, there was no diamond to be found in the rock, next to the hard place, where most of us were put this year.

I think I have said more than enough on amalgamation and the reduction of our admin cost caps, so where do we want to go from here?

Where are we at in terms of provincial bargaining? Well, the first consultation took place last week. It was a privilege for me to join with our staff, as we met with our provincial colleagues to share ideas and envision the future of what this might mean.

Pending decision on this year's resolution, we shared three things with the Province, in terms of a clear way forward.

The first, that it is imperative that school boards be at the bargaining table. The second, that strike-lockout as a settlement mechanism would be absolutely devastating for this province and its people. The third, that no matter what model, or what process, or what structure will be used, the only thing that matters, the only principle that should chart the way forward, is to keep focus on the needs of our children.

During yesterday's meeting with the board chairs, Minister Wishart signalled that legislation may be tabled as early as May, pending the finalization of our consultations with Government. So please stay tuned folks, more is yet to come.

Without any clear model to work from or with however, the only formal position of this association is that local bargaining ought to be maintained. So we need something new and very quickly. Your deliberations on the Fort la Bosse resolution cannot be of greater importance right now. We all need to take this very seriously.

I feel that the same holds true for every resolution that is before us today. And let me say a word on those that we as Executive have put forward.

On behalf of the entire Executive, I want to thank you our Region 1 members for encouraging us in the review that has now taken place, based on their request for action. We certainly have learned a lot from the review. The lessons taken from this experience are reflected in many of the amendments and processes that we are putting forward for your consideration this year.

Let me assure you, our members, that we as an Executive have wrestled with the big issues that the review brought to light. We will continue to look to you to move forward in a way that is meaningful and that respects our important work.

As I hope that my speech to you has made clear, there is a great deal of work before us, and we do need to maintain focus on this work. We also recognize that we need to work with you to chart the right course. Together we can make these two objectives a reality for MSBA going forward, and that cannot be more important. I really do hope that we can start to address these two objectives face forward, in the hours that follow.

I have been told by some of you that often, when delivering my speeches, that I talk too much. So this might be a good place to finish off this year's state of the association address.

In closing, I want to thank each of you for your service as trustees and as school boards, with gratitude for your dedication during these tough times.

This convention may be the very last time that we will have an opportunity to meet. There is, after all, an election coming this Fall! As you campaign for re-election, or engage in recruitment of the next slate of trustees to serve your communities, I point to this final slide.

Remember that the future is ours to create. It is yours to create. What happens during this election counts more now than at any other time in our history.

Your engagement of the public, and your ability to frame the conversation on public education through to the Fall election, will create our shared future. Every vote cast will be a verdict won. And to the end I am grateful, because I know that you are all up to this significant challenge.

Thank you.

I do apologize in advance however, as you are unfortunately not done with me just yet! I do need to present this year's audited financial statements, which you have received in each of your registration packages.

I would remind you that we did touch upon the highlights of these reports during the Fall regionals, with opportunity for questions and answers at that time.

As I believe has been communicated on several occasions, Executive is always available to entertain questions and inquiries from boards. So while we will not be having a Q and A session here in the interests of time, you remain free to submit any and all questions to us at any time and we will do our best to respond in a timely manner.

Let us begin.

First slide

KPMG has performed an independent auditor review of the financial statements and the results of the operations of the Manitoba School Boards Association as at June 30, 2017. In the Independent Auditors Report, KPMG has stated that "... the financial statements present fairly, in all material respect, the financial position of the Manitoba School Boards Association as at June 30, 2017..."

Second Slide

As of June 30, 2017, the Association holds net assets of \$1,470,064. This reflects total assets of \$2,064,974 less total liabilities and obligations of \$594,910. Total Revenue for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, came in at \$3,435,970. Total Expenses for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, came in at \$3,182,280

Third slide

The revenues of the Association for the 2017 fiscal year totaled \$3,435,970. Membership fees paid to the association by divisions made up 62% of revenue. Administration and Service fees from other MSBA programs (MSI, the Non Teaching Pension Plan, Negotiation spokesperson fees) provided 19% of

revenue. Seminars and Special Events provided 12% of revenue for the year-(this is higher than prior years -due to the revenue received from hosting the CSBA 2016 Congress in July 2016).

Fourth slide

Total expenses for 2017 were \$3,182,280, which is \$241,998 higher than prior year, and \$2,230 over budget. Major variances include: A \$217,115 increase over prior year/ \$217,798 over budget in Seminars and Special events (due to the CSBA Congress held July 2016 -which is a one-time event) A \$ 73,520 decrease over prior year/ \$78,248 under budget in Corporate Services, which can be attributed to staffing and cost-management. A \$ 43,421 decrease over prior year/ \$61,682 under budget in Association Governance, due to cost savings associated with January regionals being held via conference call. An additional \$79,366 in savings were realized from the combined budget of the Labour Relations and Education and Communications Services Units, due to reduced travel needs over the initial budget.

Fifth slide

Looking at the Expenses by source object, staffing accounts for 70.5% of fiscal expenses in 2017. Seminars and Special events in 2017 account for 10.9% of the expenses, higher than usual in this past fiscal year, due to our Association hosting the CSBA Congress in 2016. Office & building operations, and professional services make up a combined 6.8% of operations. Meetings and Travel account for 5.1% of expenditures combined.

Final slide

The Association has a reserve policy to retain an amount not exceeding six months operating costs of the Association. The reserves of the Manitoba School Boards Association are for the Manitoba Schools Insurance Program of \$200,000; for building repairs and maintenance (currently at \$257,200 based on 20% of assessed property value); for staff salaries in the event of severance or restructuring; for unforeseen capital expenditures, budget deficits or technological upgrading at \$50,000. With operating expenses for 2017 at just over \$3.1 Million, the unrestricted reserve for MSBA cannot exceed \$1,591,140. We have a net of \$112,860 invested in Capital Assets, which leaves the reserve for 2017 at \$1,357,204 and this does not exceed the 6-month operating limit.

Thank you and enjoy your regional meetings

**DISPOSITION OF
2018 MSBA Convention Resolutions
and Special Business**

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/ak

NOTICE OF MOTION

The Chair of the MSBA Resolutions and Policy Committee shall move or cause to be moved the following motion regarding adoption of the Rules of Procedure for the resolution process at the MSBA Annual General Meeting:

Martens (Resolutions & Policy Committee)/Wadelius (Resolutions & Policy Committee)CARRIED

2018 RULES OF PROCEDURE

Process:

1. All resolution proceedings shall be governed by these rules of procedure, the MSBA Act, and the MSBA By-Laws. In the event of any conflict, the provisions of the MSBA Act and the MSBA By-Laws shall prevail. Where any of the aforementioned identified instruments are silent, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, shall apply.
2. The resolution process shall be conducted by a "Resolutions Chair", referred to in the following sections as the "Chair".
3. The Chair will advise the membership of the disposition of emergent resolutions submitted to the MSBA Executive and request the assembly's consideration of those late resolutions not adopted by the Executive.
4. Resolutions shall be dealt with in the following order:
 - (a) consideration of new resolutions in the order listed in the resolutions booklet and any emergent resolutions adopted by the MSBA Executive at the end of the section in which the resolution is assigned (point #3 above);
 - (b) MSBA policies presented for reaffirmation at MSBA regional meetings;
 - (c) consideration of emergent resolutions not adopted by the MSBA Executive but approved by the assembly for debate;
 - (d) any resolution(s) for reconsideration in the order of receipt by the Chair (point #26).
6. Should any resolution be identified as a particular concern of the assembly, that resolution may be brought forward in the convention proceedings for discussion and debate by majority consent of the assembly. A motion requesting this action must be moved and seconded.
7. Proposed resolutions shall be read and moved by members of the Resolutions and Policy Committee and the Chair shall immediately ask for a seconder who may speak to the proposed resolution and close debate.

Resolutions:

8. Resolutions submitted by any member board in the period between the deadline for receipt of regular resolutions and the final Executive meeting preceding the annual general meeting will be considered emergent resolutions.

The Executive will assess emergent resolutions to determine whether the issue addressed was evident prior to the deadline for submission of regular resolutions. Where the Executive deems the resolution to be truly emergent in nature, it will be included among those for consideration at the annual general meeting.

Any emergent resolution not adopted by the MSBA Executive will require a separate motion to be added to the annual general meeting agenda and must be moved and seconded and receive the support of not less than two-thirds of the delegates present and voting in order to be considered.

2018 Rules of Procedure, cont'd....

9. Any resolution sponsored by the provincial executive will be deemed to be a regular resolution, whether or not it meets the timeline outlined above.
10. Extraordinary resolutions arising out of the business of the annual general meeting may be considered if consideration is supported by a two thirds majority of voting trustees.

Debate:

11. As soon as a proposed resolution has been moved and seconded, the Chair will call upon the seconder to explain the proposed resolution.
12. The Chair will then ask if any delegate wishes to speak against the proposed resolution. If no delegate so indicates, the seconder will be invited to close debate and the question will be called.
13. Once any delegate speaks in opposition to the proposed resolution, debate shall begin and continue until the question is called in the usual manner. The seconder will have the right to be the final speaker in the debate.
14. Each delegate wishing to speak to a resolution must first be formally recognized by the Chair and shall announce his/her name and school division/district before speaking to the resolution to be debated.
15. No delegate shall speak to a resolution more than once, except the seconder of the resolution, and debate shall be limited to three (3) minutes unless permission for an additional three (3) minutes is granted by general consent of the assembly.
16. Associate members may, at the discretion of the Chair, speak on a point of information but may not enter into the debate, nor may they move, second, or vote on a resolution.

Voting:

17. Member school boards who have at least one trustee in attendance at the Annual Convention shall be eligible to vote, via board ballots, on by-laws and by-law amendments. Trustees from member boards who are registered Convention delegates are eligible to register as voting delegates, and to receive a ballot book and voting delegate card that will be used to vote on resolutions other than by-laws.
18. A quorum shall consist of not less than 100 voting delegates present on the floor of the convention at the time any vote is called on any motion before the assembly.
19. The Resolutions and Policy Committee [By-Law #4, (11.)] shall be responsible to know the voting strength at all times on the convention floor, and shall be responsible for ruling on any disputes over the issuance of voting cards and ballot books.
20. All voting shall be by show of hands (using the authorized voting cards) unless:
 - (a) the Chair, in his/her discretion, calls for a standing vote before announcing the results of a vote by show of hands, or
 - (b) immediately after the result has been announced by the Chair, one delegate can call for a standing vote.

2018 Rules of Procedure, cont'd....

21. A favourable vote of not less than two thirds of the board ballots cast shall be required to approve any amendments/changes to the By-Laws or MSBA Act. All other questions shall be decided by majority vote of those delegates present and voting unless otherwise specified in these rules of procedure.

Amendments:

22. A delegate may, at any time during the debate on a resolution, move an amendment, providing it is relevant to and deals with the same subject matter as the original resolution. Amendments must be seconded.
23. The Chair has the prerogative to divide a question into two or more questions so as to allow for a separate vote on any particular point or points, if the Chair deems that the division of the question will facilitate debate.
24. No more than one amendment and one amendment to the amendment (sub-amendment) will be accepted by the Chair at any one time.
25. The Chair may, in his/her discretion, require that any amendment to a resolution be submitted in writing.

Reconsideration:

26. A written notice of motion to reconsider a vote on the resolution shall be presented to the Chair, and may only be submitted by a delegate who originally supported the vote on that particular resolution. Upon validation of the request for reconsideration, the Chair shall immediately announce that a motion to reconsider will be presented after all other convention resolutions have been considered in accordance with [Section 4. (f)] above.

/ak

BY-LAWS

BY-LAW #3 MEMBERSHIP..... B-01-18
(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following be adopted as a new association by-law #3 – Membership.

1. A board that meets the criteria for membership in the association (as defined in *The Manitoba School Boards Association Act*) is, upon payment of the assessed membership fee, a full member of the association, except as described in #2, below.
2. Where a board’s members are not normally chosen through the electoral process outlined in *The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act*, those board members are not eligible to serve on the association’s provincial executive or other elected bodies.

MARTENS (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/COLLINS (MSBA Executive).....CARRIED

BY-LAW #4: NOMINATING COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP B-02-18
(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED that Part 7(d) of Association By-Law #4 be stricken and replaced with the following:

(d) The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of the Association’s three most recent Past Presidents who continue to serve as school trustees. In the event that there are fewer than three Past Presidents serving as school trustees, the Executive shall appoint a sufficient number of trustees at large to this committee to reach the requisite full complement of three members. Trustees at large serving on this committee will do so until such time as there are sufficient Past Presidents to achieve that complement. The most immediate Past President serving on the Nominating Committee shall chair the committee.

MARTENS (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/CAMPBELL (MSBA Executive).....CARRIED

BY-LAW #4: NOMINATING COMMITTEE - FUNCTION B-03-18
(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED that Part 7(e) of Association By-Law #4 be stricken and replaced with the following:

(e) The Nominating Committee will endeavour to fulfill its function in accordance with the following guidelines.

- i. The Committee will ensure that there is at least one qualified candidate nominated for each Executive position to be elected at any Annual Convention.
- ii. None of the Committee's nominees shall be a member of the Nominating Committee.

Additional responsibilities of the Nominating Committee may be identified by the Provincial Executive in the Committee’s mandate.

MARTENS (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/KUBLICK (MSBA Executive).....CARRIED

BY-LAW #4: ANNUAL CONVENTION – VOTING AND INCIDENTAL AMENDMENTS B-04-18

(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED that Association By-Law #4, Annual Convention, be amended as follows:

1. That the title be changed from “Annual Convention” to “Conventions;”
2. That the phrase “the Manitoba Director of the Canadian School Boards Association and” be stricken from section 6(c); and
3. The insertion of a new clause 6(e), as follows: “Voting on resolutions at a convention other than an Annual Convention may be conducted via email or other electronic means, in accordance with a process to be determined by the Provincial Executive.”

WADELIUS (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/WIEBE (MSBA Executive)

The following amendment was moved: to replace the words “Provincial Executive” in third bullet with “each individual region”.

HUME (St. James-Assiniboia S.D.)/KOTYK (River East Transcona S.D.)

Vote taken on the amendment DEFEATED

Vote on the original resolution DEFEATED

BY-LAW #4: USE OF BOARD BALLOTS B-05-18

(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED that Part 6 of Association By-Law #4, Method of Voting, be amended by inclusion of a new clause (c), with the consequential renumbering of the current clauses (c) and (d) with such change to take effect immediately upon its passage.

6. Method of Voting

Voting on resolutions and elections shall be conducted in accordance with the following rules:

- (a) board ballots shall be used to elect the President of the Association;
- (b) board ballots shall be used to vote on any new by-law, or by-law amendment;
- (c) board ballots shall be used to appoint the association financial auditors;
- (d) individual trustee ballots shall be used to elect all members of the Association Executive except the President, and
- (e) voting on resolutions other than by-laws shall be by a show of hands of individual trustees, unless:
 - (i) the chair in their discretion calls for a standing vote before announcing the results of a vote by show of hands, or
 - (ii) immediately after the result has been announced by the chair, one delegate can call for a standing vote.

WADELIUS (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/NEMETH (MSBA Executive)

The following amendment was moved: to a replace the words “his/her” in bullet 6 with “their”.

PHILLIPS (Southwest Horizon S.D.)/REID (Winnipeg S.D.) CARRIED

Vote on the resolution as amended CARRIED

BY-LAW #4: CONVENTION: SECTION 11 - RESOLUTIONS B-06-18

(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law #4 – Convention: Section 11 – Resolutions be stricken and replaced with the following:

By-law #4—Annual Convention

11. Resolutions

- a) Resolutions for consideration at the Annual Convention must be forwarded to MSBA by a deadline set out in the annual call for resolutions.
- b) Each region may adopt a maximum of five board-sponsored resolutions for forwarding for consideration at the association’s AGM as regular resolutions. Board-sponsored resolutions not adopted at the regional meeting for forwarding to the AGM may be forwarded, upon a majority vote in the affirmative at the regional meeting, directly to the provincial executive as an issue or request for action.
- c) Proposed resolutions will be categorized in accordance with the timeframe within which they are submitted, and the contents of the resolutions, as follows.

Timeframe:

- **Regular resolutions** are those resolutions submitted by the deadline identified in any call for resolutions.
- **Emergent resolutions** are those resolutions that are received in the period between the deadline for receipt of resolutions identified in a call for resolutions and the conclusion of the last executive meeting prior to the membership meeting at which resolutions will be considered, and which relate an issue which was not evident prior to that deadline. The provincial executive will assess each such resolution to determine whether it is truly emergent in nature. Where the resolution is determined to be truly emergent, the provincial executive will direct that the resolution in question be included among those being considered at the AGM. If the resolution is determined not to be emergent, it may still be considered at the AGM, at the request of the sponsoring board, if such consideration is supported by two-thirds of voting trustees.
- **Extraordinary resolutions** arise out of the business of the AGM, and will be considered with the support of two-thirds of voting trustees.

Contents:

- **By-law amendments or new by-laws:** Resolutions in this category require a minimum of one month notice to members (Association By-law #9). For this reason, no extraordinary by-law amendments or new by-laws may be considered, and any emergent ones must be submitted at least one month prior to the meeting at which they are to be considered.
 - **Policy additions or amendments:** Resolutions in this category seek to amend the association’s existing policy statements, or create a policy statement in an area not previously addressed.
 - **Requests for Action:** Resolutions in this category are action items that direct the association to do something, either directly or through its lobbying efforts. Requests for action should align with association policy; where they do not, that conflict will be identified. Requests for action are time-limited to three years or the completion of the requested action, whichever comes first. At that time, the request for action will be archived, unless renewed by a member board through a new resolution.
- d) Any resolution sponsored by the provincial executive will be deemed to be a regular resolution, whether or not it meets the timelines outlined above.

e) The Resolutions and Policy Committee is a standing committee of the MSBA Provincial Executive. The responsibilities of the Resolutions and Policy Committee are outlined in the committee mandate detailed in the MSBA procedural manual. A detailed description of the resolutions process is contained in operational policy.

WADELIUS (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/RIEHL (MSBA Executive).....CARRIED

BY-LAW #7: EXECUTIVE BY-ELECTIONS B-07-18
(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED that the following be inserted as sub-part (ii) of Part 7 of By-Law #7, and the current Part 7 be numbered as sub-part (i):

- (ii) Any by-election required under (i), above, may be conducted via e-mail or other electronic means, in accordance with a process to be determined by the Provincial Executive.

WADELIUS (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/SMUKOWICH (MSBA Executive)CARRIED

AUDITOR AND FINANCIALS

RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS A-01-18
(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED that the audited financial statements for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2017 be received.

MARTENS (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/NEMETH (MSBA Executive)CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR A-02-18
(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED that KPMG Chartered Accountants be re-appointed as the Manitoba School Boards Association auditors for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2018.

MARTENS (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/WIEBE (MSBA Executive).....CARRIED

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR AUDIT SERVICES A-03-18
(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED that a request for proposals to provide audit services for the Manitoba School Boards Association be issued for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2019.

MARTENS (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/CAMPBELL (MSBA Executive)CARRIED

MATTERS AFFECTING THE ASSOCIATION

ELECTRONIC/ABSENTEE VOTING AT REGIONAL MEETINGS M-01-18 (Region 2)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association utilize electronic/absentee voting at all regional meetings so that all trustees are able to vote.

WADELIUS (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/SYROTA (Red River Valley S.D.)CARRIED

FUNDING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING FFM-01-18 (Region 1)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association will lobby Manitoba Education and Training for direct consultation with all school divisions regarding any potential changes to the structure and funding of public education within Manitoba, and in doing so request this consultation to begin early in the process.

WADELIUS (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/HIGHFIELD (Turtle Mountain S.D.)CARRIED

GST/HST ON CAPITAL PROJECTS FFM-02-18 (Region 5 & 6)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Public Schools Finance Board (PSFB) follow the Canada Revenue Agency GST/HST Technical Information Bulletin B-053 and fund the full cost of GST to school divisions on approved PSFB capital projects.

WADELIUS (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/DABEE (Seven Oaks S.D.)CARRIED

EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

TEACHER TRAINING IN LITERACY AND NUMERACY EP-01-18 (Region 2)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoba School Boards Association petition Manitoba Education and Training and Manitoba Universities to ensure that graduating teachers are adequately prepared to implement best pedagogical practices in the instruction of literacy and numeracy across all grade levels.

BOUCHER (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/DYCK (Garden Valley S.D.) DEFEATED

STUDENTS

MANDATORY VACCINATION OF SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN S-01-18 (Region 1)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT in order to protect the health of children and the community, the Manitoba School Boards Association lobby the Province of Manitoba to enact legislation requiring vaccination of school children for the following designated diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcal disease, pertussis, and varicella (chicken pox). Exemptions from immunization requirements could be allowed for medical reasons (i.e., prior immunity or medical contraindication).

BOUCHER (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/ROSS (Brandon S.D.) DEFEATED

HUMAN RESOURCES

PROVINCIAL BARGAINING.....HR-01-18 (Fort La Bosse S.D.)

BE IT RESOLVED that in the event the provincial government legislates provincial bargaining for Manitoba public school teachers, collective bargaining on all items take place at one bargaining table, aka, single tier bargaining.

BOUCHER (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/RUSSELL (Fort La Bosse S.D.) DEFEATED

TRANSPORTATION

WARNING LIGHTS FOR SCHOOL ZONES T-01-18 (Region 5 & 6)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoba School Boards Association lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend The Highway Traffic Act Reduced-Speed School Zone Regulation 136/2013, to include lights as part of school zone warning signage.

BOUCHER (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/JOHNSON (St. James-Assiniboia S.D.)

The following amendment was moved: to replace the words “to permit inclusion of” in the last line with “to include”.

JESSON (Lord Selkirk S.D.)/BOGASKI (Lord Selkirk S.D.) CARRIED

Vote on the resolution as amended CARRIED